



MARAD FACT SHEET



America's Advocate for the Maritime Industry



MARAD serves as an advocate for the U.S. maritime industry to promote America's growth and international competitiveness in a safe and healthy environment.



MARAD provides technical assistance to state and local port authorities to facilitate the efficient and secure movement of people and cargo in waterborne commerce.



MARAD maintains the National Defense Reserve Fleet as a source of vessels that can be activated to meet the shipping requirements of the United States during national emergencies.

Administrator

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Vision: A maritime system that serves America with American ships and American labor.

Mission: As an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD promotes the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced United States merchant marine, sufficient to carry the Nation's domestic waterborne commerce and a substantial portion of its waterborne foreign commerce, and capable of serving as a naval and military auxiliary in time of war or national emergency.

Goals:

- o **National Security:** Assure an intermodal sealift capacity to support vital national security interests.
- o **Shipbuilding:** Enhance the competitiveness of the U.S. shipyard industry.
- o **Intermodalism:** Improve intermodal transportation system performance by applying advanced technology and innovation.
- o **Trade:** Increase the U.S. maritime industry's participation in foreign trade, and cargo and passenger movement in the domestic trades.

Some of MARAD's Exciting Programs & Initiatives

Marine Transportation System – MTS. MARAD is one of 17 agencies participating in the MTS initiative, which seeks to ensure a safe and environmentally sound world-class marine transportation system to improve the global competitiveness and national security of the United States.

Maritime Security Program - MSP. MARAD serves to maintain an active, privately owned, U.S.-flag, and U.S.-crewed liner fleet in international trade. This fleet is also available to support Department of Defense sustainment in a contingency.

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement – VISA. This program provides the Department of Defense with assured access to commercial intermodal capacity to move ammunition and sustainment cargo. More than 75 percent of the U.S.-flag, militarily useful, commercial dry cargo shipping capacity is enrolled in VISA.

National Defense Reserve Fleet – NDRF. MARAD maintains the NDRF as a source of vessels that can be activated to meet the shipping requirements of the United States during national emergencies.

Ready Reserve Force – RRF. A component of the NDRF, this force is comprised of ships that are kept in a heightened state of readiness and can be activated within 4, 5, 10, 20, or 30 days to meet surge military sealift requirements in the event of war or military deployment.

Cargo Preference. Cargo preference is the reservation, by law, for transportation on U.S.-flag vessels, of all or a portion of all oceanborne cargo which moves in international trade either as a direct result of the Federal Government's involvement or indirectly because of the financial sponsorship of a Federal program or guarantee provided by the Federal Government. MARAD's responsibilities include the proper application of certain U.S.-cargo preference laws.

Title XI Financing. Provides for a full faith and credit guarantee by the U.S. Government of debt obligations issued by U.S. or foreign shipowners for the purpose of financing or refinancing either U.S.-flag vessels or eligible export vessels constructed, reconstructed, or reconditioned in U.S. shipyards, and U.S. shipyards for the purpose of financing advanced shipbuilding technology and modern shipbuilding technology of a privately owned general shipyard facility located in the United States. In 2002, Title XI applications totaling \$225 million in loan guarantees were approved for projects covering construction of 22 vessels.

National Maritime Resource and Education Center – NMREC. MARAD established the center to serve as the Government's commercial shipbuilding advocate to assist U.S. shipbuilding and allied industries in improving their competitiveness in the international commercial market. NMREC promotes elimination of unnecessary regulations, encourages development and use of consensus technical standards for the maritime industry, and supports U.S. participation in national and international standards-writing organization.

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy – USMMA. MARAD operates the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York, to educate young men and women for service in the American merchant marine, in the U.S. armed forces, and in the Nation's intermodal transportation system.

State Maritime Academies. MARAD provides financial assistance to six State maritime academies to train merchant marine officers pursuant to the Maritime Education and Training Act of 1980.

Port, Intermodal, and Environmental Activities. MARAD promotes and provides technical assistance to ensure that U.S. waterways, ports, and intermodal connections are able to compete in the global economy of the 21st Century.

For more information on all of the Maritime Administration's exciting programs, visit the Internet at <http://www.marad.dot.gov>.